

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 21, 2007, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by September 21, 2007.

Claims 15-28 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings and claims were objected to for various informalities. Claims 2, 5, and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,902,283 to Bean. Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bean. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,948 to Kozin et al. Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozin et al.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 4 and 5 if these claims are amended to address the rejections under Section 112, second paragraph and to include the limitations the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, claims 1-14 have been canceled and new claims 15-28 have been added. In these new claims, both independent claims 15 and 16 include the features of original claims 1 and 2, respectively, as well as the features of original, allowable claim 4. New claim 17 depends from claim 16

and includes the additional features of original claim 1, since new claim 16 omits the objected-to "in particular" used in original claim 2.

Original claim 4 has been deleted since its features are included in new claims 15 and 16.

In addition, the new claims include independent method claims 27 and 28, which correspond to original method claims 13 and 14, but in which the features of original, allowable claim 4 have been included in the form of a method step as disclosed in the original specification on page 4, lines 2-3.

The new set of claims 15-28 were drafted also to overcome the formal rejections in the Office Action noted under Sections 2 and 4, especially with regard to the objections relating to claim dependencies and indefinite language.

Finally, the drawings have been amended to add the requested legends as requested by the Examiner.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. However, should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Striker", is written over the typed name.

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